ated private factory petroleum products do not come to the Government sector petroleum companies?

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, I fully share the anxiety of the hon. Member with regard to adulterated petroleum products in the country. We are taking steps, but I do not know how far they will be able to prevent adulteration. So far as the second point raised by the hon. Member is concerned, I would say that there will definitely be quality control monitoring. There will also be a Government representative. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Sir, the hon. Member has asked about adulteration, and the hon. Minister says that he is not sure what steps he has taken. *(Interruptions)* You must take steps with confidence. What steps have been taken? The House wants to know *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, I am sorry if the hon. Members misunderstood my answer. I am sorry for that. Hon. Member, Mr. Fernandes, has asked whether the Government is aware that these two companies have indulged in adulteration. The other connected question was whether we are going to take products which are produced by these factories. Then he has asked whether there will be any monitoring on the quality control. Sir, I have replied that we are taking some steps, but I do not know how far they are going to prevent adulteration. But we are taking some effective steps. Then, so far as taking products from them is concerned, we are going to take them by our own pipeline. Whenever they will be taken, there will be proper monitoring. A Government representative will also be there to ensure quality control.

Shiv Sena activists' attempt to disrupt Cricket Series

*44. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:+

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent attempt by the Shiv Sena activists to disrupt the Indo-Pak cricket series had any adverse impact on the efforts of Government to normalise relations between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) In keeping with Government of India's policy of working to build a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan, and in response to an invitation from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee visited Pakistan on February 20-21, 1999 on the inaugural run of the Delhi-Lahore-Delhi bus service. During his visit, Prime Minister conveyed to the Government and people of Pakistan, India's consistent commitment to peace and friendship with Pakistan and to developing a comprehensive structure of cooperation for the benefit of the two peoples. Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan signed the Lahore Declaration which is landmark event in the move towards peace and security of the two countries. India and Pakistan will now work to enter into agreements to put into place far-reaching Confidence Building Measures. The two countries also identified new and significant areas of cooperation such as information technology and decided to address humanitarian issues at a ministerial level on an urgent basis. Government expect that the Prime Minister's visit will mark a new chapter in our bilateral ties.

Government place strong emphasis on developing relations in the fields of culture, sports and people-to-people

+ The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

contacts. The visit of the Pakistan hockey and cricket teams are seen in this context. The Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, in their Joint Statement of 21 February 1999, expressed satisfaction at the renewal of the contacts in the field of sports.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, answer to part (a) is, "No, it had no adverse effect." Then, as far as details are concerned, an explanatory note has already been provided. But I would add that since you have given your consent for making a *suo motu* statement on the visit to Pakistan, perhaps, the clarification can be asked tomorrow. It does not relate to the visit to Pakistan. But I am ready to answer it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Hon. Chairman, Sir, may I submit that this is a specific question relating to the attempts being made or were made to disrupt the cricket matches between India and Pakistan. It is a separate question. Let the Minister answer it first, and then I will ask a supplementry question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, first he has asked whether it had any adverse impact, and if yes, the details thereof. My answer is, "No, it had no adverse effect." Since it had no adverse effect, there are no details thereof.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: How is it, Sir? I am raising a question of propriety ...(*Interruptions*)... I am raising a question of propriety. The answer that was circulated (*Interruptions*) It is a question of propriety of the House. The answer that was circulated is completely at variance with what the hon. Minister says. Let the hon. Minister say that what he is verbally saying is the answer. What is the answer?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will explain. There are two parts of the question. One is: Did it have any adverse impact on the visit? If so, the details thereof. I said. it had no adverse impact, and (b) for details thereof, I had made available the answer in a more detailed note...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I want a ruling. There is an answer circulated...(*Interruptions*)... You are the Chairman of the House. The answer that was circulated...(*Interruptions*)... Let me make my point...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I seek your indulgence that the House must be allowed to carry on its deliberation peacefully. The answer that the hon'ble Minister has circulated is here — (a) and (b). He is not reading that out. What does it mean? Is it being withdrawn?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No, no. Sir, I will read it out. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Minister does not have the freedom. The Minister does have the freedom to withdraw the answer and give a separate answer, but he does not have the freedom not to refer to it. I want a statement. Sir, it is not a statement. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Let me say. The point is that in response to the question put by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, the way the answer has been given as (a) and (b) together may not be a proper way of replying. But the answer has been given to your question by the Minister of External Affairs when you spoke of it and he said there is no effect.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, is it that I should place my supplementaries only on the oral submissions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, only on the oral submission.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is a new precedent. Anyway, Government is free to create new situations. Sir, my first supplementary is if the people in high positions make openly a statement that they will violate the law of the country — I am referring to the statement that was issued that attempts would be made to disrupt the match and to

destroy the pitch if such a statement is made by people in high position, that is bound to give a wrong signal, not to one country, which I am referring to, that is, Pakistan, but it is bound to give wrong signals to many countries in the world, that in India there is a Government which cannot enforce law, or which has to tolerate such statements regarding violation of laws by people who belong to Government itself. Considering that, my supplementary is, when Government plays soft with such statements, what adverse reactions it had in different countries of the world? Is the Government aware of that; and if the Government is aware of that, what steps has Government taken to counter that adverse reaction?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is fully aware of everything that happens here or elsewhere. The Government has taken full note of it precisely because the Government handled the situation with finesse and ability. There was no adverse effect and precisely because of that there took place a historic visit by the Prime Minister of India, the first ever in 10 years to Pakistan. ..*(Interruptions)*.. Secondly, Sir, I would appeal to my good friends to reflect on the fact that sports do quite often generate unprecedented and unanticipated passion, not just simply in India, but all over the world. Now, we have witnessed one kind of passion in one part of the country. We have witnessed, for example, another kind of passion in another part of the country. ..*(Interruptions)*... But if we sat upon judgement or passions that sporting activity generate and took out of that something about international relations, I appeal to the hon'ble Member to reflect on it, it would be a simplicism. It would also be politicisation of sports which I think he certainly should resist from.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, now my second supplementary. I take this opportunity, since the hon. Minister has strayed when ....*(Interruptions)*

Sir, this is my second supplementary What is this?

श्री संजय निरुपमः सर, क्वेश्चन लिस्ट में इनक दूसरा नम्बर है इसलिए ये दूसरा सप्लीमेंट्री क्वेश्चन नहीं पूछ सकते। ...**(व्यवधान)**.....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The young Member does not know that if the first Member is absent, the second Member can put two supplementaries. He does not know it. The first Member is absent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Ignorance is not a privilege. This is too much. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please sit down.

As per the Rules, when the first Member is not present, the second becomes the first. So, he has the permission to ask two supplementaries.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: In our country, ignorance is privilege. Anyway, Sir, I take this opportunity to put on record that a statement made by an important person is one thing, and the mass hysteria by a section of the spectators in Calcutta is quite another. That is different. We are discussing the role of the Government. The Government of West Bengal has taken all steps to protect the dignity of the match in West Bengal. Here we are discussing the role of the Government.

My second supplementary is this. Why was the Home Minister sent to Bombay to meet an important person in order to buy peace, in order to see that the cricket match was played? My specific supplementary is this. Will the Government consider that the visit of the Home Minister, the chief of the home administration of the country, gives a signal that the Government in this country is playing soft with those who would like to violate law and disrupt the normal life of the country? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Let us not prolong this question. Now they are playing cricket. ....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. The Minister is replying. ...*(Interruptions)*

I should not say it. He can say it. Please, please, let the Minister reply.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has expressed an opinion with which the Government is not in agreement. The hon. Member has not asked a question.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I have asked a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Now, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Whether the Government agrees with me or not is a different matter. The Government has no answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, that a particular party had declared to disrupt the matches was known to the Government. We also know what happened to the cricket pitch in Delhi. We also know that the hon. Home Minister rushed to Bombay.

We would like to know what terms and conditions were agreed to between the Home Minister and the particular gentleman.

Further, I would like to ask specifically whether the Government would concede to the Shiv Sena the right to veto before inviting any future team from Pakistan.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, there are two parts of the question. I must take seriously the questions that the hon. Leader of the Opposition asks.

The first part of the question relates to the hon. Home Minister's visit to Mumbai. The hon. Home Minister in discharge of his duty is free to go anywhere in the country.

Secondly, Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition has enquired whether anyone—he has referred to some one—has a right to veto. No one has a right to veto.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, before you ask another hon. Member to put a question, I would like to say that hon. Manmohan Singh Ji is a great respected gentleman... *(Interruptions)* I am addressing the Chairman. I am not talking to you. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir,... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me hear him.

SHRI MD. SALIM: Sir, I agree he is a party spokesman, but this is not a press conference. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Let me hear him. Please, sit down.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: How can you hear him, Sir? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MD. SALIM: Sir, you have not identified him. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether I allow him or not is a different thing. That I will decide. Why do you decide it for me? The question basically is that I have already called another hon. Member.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, there is a broad concensus in the country that we should improve our relations with Pakistan; and cricket is one of the means by which we should improve our relations with our neighbouring countries, as has been explained by the Foreign Minister. It has been done before by other countries. For example, when China was isolated for a long time and when it came back in contact with other countries, it used the Ping-Pong diplomacy. You know that. South Africa used cricket for improving relations with other countries. So, cricket should have been the means of improving relations. But, we now find a sad spectacle that **(Interruptions)* I am not mentioning the names, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you referring to Members of this House?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Yes, Sir. *(Interruptions)*

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*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, Sit down. If you are mentioning Members of this House, you cannot mention that without first giving notice.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: All right. I am not mentioning them. But, it has come out in the newspapers. The names of these two men have been mentioned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: All right. I am not mentioning. *(Interruptions)* Sir, the tentacles of that particular organisation are not confined to one State. They have spread all over the country, including Calcutta. And for the first time in my life, I have seen on television a Calcutta crowd, which is a very good crowd in terms of knowledge of cricket which always appreciates the game played by others... Only some of them, perhaps, 300 or 400 persons who came to Calcutta shouted, "Pakistan hai, hai"; and indulged in other obscene things. When Indian players win matches they are called 'great Indians' but when they lose matches to Pakistan they are called idiots! This kind of talk ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: Sir, is he making a statement? Can he preface his question for any length of time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question? ...*(Interruptions)*... What is your question?

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: Can he preface his question without any norm? When my colleague, Mr. Naidu wanted to put forth his view-point, they did not allow him. What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question? ...*(Interruptions)*... What is your question?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: I am putting a very simple question. ...*(Interruptions)*... What I am asking is ...*(Interruptions)*... What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*... Now please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: No. I will not. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: My question is ...*(Interruptions)*... My question is ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: My question is ...*(Interruptions)*... How could I put my question when they are interrupting me? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me hear the quesiton ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: My question ...*(Interruptions)*... He is not allowing me to put the question. My question is ...*(Interruptions)*... My question is ...*(Interruptions)*... What is this? They are not allowing me to put the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am putting the question. My question is whether the hon. Foreign Minister coordinates his activities with the Home Minister to ensure that what he is trying to do in foreign relations is not disrupted by some criminal elements, by some communal elements.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I must answer the hon. Member's question though it was accompanied by a great deal of additional rhetoric. But I will overlook the rhetoric part of it. The hon. Member wanted to know whether I coordinate with the hon. Home Minister. Certainly it is self-evident that we do coordinate and we will continue to coordinate. There is no doubt about that.

The second part I wish to add is that the success of the Government's foreign policy can only be measured by the results that we produce. Now in this case he talked about ping-pong diplomacy and cricket diplomacy. The fact remains. It is a visible fact. It is an identifiable fact that the cricket series were completed. It is an identifiable fact that hockey mathces are taking place in Pakistan. Sporting activities as an additional vehicle for improving relations is certainly a commitment of this Government. It is employed by

this Government as an additional instrumentality of foreign policy. It has employed it successfully. That is precisely the point. If you measure that aspect of it, the Government's policy has been entirely successful. The three cricket matches have taken place, the hockey matches have taken place; and the hon. Prime Minister has had a path-breaking, historic, visit to Pakistan, which is a measure of the success.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my small supplementary is: whether it is a fact that in 1991 ...*(Interruptions)*... I am putting a supplementary. Don't go on dictating to us every day like this. This is not the way.

Sir, my supplementary is: whether it is a fact that in 1991 a similar threat was issued during the regime of the earlier Congress Government and the match was called off and the tour was cancelled. At that time, what were the conditions? I would like to know from the Minister whether it is a fact such a tour was cancelled because of a threat during the previous regime also. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let him reply.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, in the context of improving Indo-Pak relations, the hon. Prime Minister has repeatedly stated that "Let us not keep looking backwards, let us learn from the past and let us move towards the future." It is because of that and it is because of what he has done during his historic visit to Pakistan, that our relations with them are improving. This visit has demonstrated that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Efficient functioning of Government Machinery

*45. DR. RAJA RAMANNA:
KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 21 given in the Rajya Sabha on May 28,1998, and state:

(a) the progress made on various initiatives for improving the efficient functioning of Government machinery;

(b) whether Office Procedure Automation (OPA) which was claimed to be operational since 1993, has been introduced in Ministries to computerise file movements by using the developed software package;

(c) if so, the names of such Ministries/Departments and the achieved measure of efficiency satisfaction; and

(d) the number of officers who have been deputed for making themselves aware of new developments in computer technology as applied to administration efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The progress on various initiatives for improving the functioning of the government machinery is reported as under:

(i) Department of Administratives Reforms and Public Grievances continued to extend help and advice to the Ministries/Departments in the area of Organisation and Methods. The performance of three Ministries/Departments of the Government of India in the area of Organisation and